

Summaries of State and Local Programs

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locations of waste water discharges, industrial waste lagoons, landfills, oil and chemical spills and leaks, salt piles, agricultural waste disposal, septic tank distributions, and a variety of other information needed in a comprehensive water quality management program. Connecticut's system is based primarily on water use criteria rather than on discharge criteria. The basic policy of the state program is to restore or maintain the quality of ground water to a quality consistent with its use for drinking without treatment. The program includes corrective actions as well as restrictive actions to maintain or improve ground water quality up to the next highest class at least. One of the problems with the program is the shortage of the areas classified for waste disposal activities. There, of course, is also public resistance to the classification of areas for waste disposal or landfill activities. This has resulted in a potential shortage of areas suitable for landfills and other critical activities needed in the state and is one of the factors encouraging development of resource recovery facilities. The success of the Connecticut program is due partly to an active and intimate public education and involvement program, which includes direct assistance to planning, zoning, and conservation commissions in land and water use planning.

FLORIDA AND DADE COUNTY

Overview of Ground Water Resources

Ground water is an abundant and vital resource in Florida. Large quantities of water are obtained from each of the principal aquifers in most areas of the state. Because of its abundance and availability, ground water is the principal source of fresh water for public supply and rural and industrial uses and is the source of about half of the water used for irrigation. About 90 percent of Florida's population depends on ground water for its drinking water, according to the USGS National Water Summary 1984. Among other states, Florida ranks very high in its use of ground water: eighth in total fresh water withdrawal; first for rural, domestic, and livestock; second for public supply; third for industrial uses; and ninth for irrigation withdrawals. Florida's exceptionally abundant ground water resources are the result of a combination of favorable climatic, physiographic, and geologic conditions. The state is largely composed of flat-lying relatively permeable carbonate rocks overlain by very permeable sedimentary sands. Its low relief and relatively high rainfall of more than 50 inches per year contribute to high recharge rates to the enormous ground water reservoir provided by the surface sediments and carbonate rock.

Ground water is especially important in Dade County in southeast Florida, which contains Miami and surrounding communities. In this area the